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SAVE THE
DATES

- REGION 1 Planning
Nov. 4 ~ HELD
- REGION 9 Planning
Nov. 10 ~ HELD
- REGION 7 Planning
Nov. 15 ~ HELD
- REGION 5 Planning
Nov. 16 ~ HELD
- REGION 6 Planning
Dec. 1 ~ Thomasville
- REGION 11 Planning
Dec. 2 ~ Decatur
- REGION 2 Planning
Dec. 13 ~ Tuscaloosa
- REGION 4 Planning
Dec. 14 ~ Delta
- REGION 12 Planning
Dec. 15 ~ Huntsville
- REGION 3, 8 & 10
Planning Dates
Jan. 2011 ~ TBA

CONNECTINGALABAMA PLANNING MEETINGS

The **ConnectingALABAMA** team is pleased with the Kickoffs held around the state over the last two months, in which it introduced the Alabama Broadband Initiative to residents and businesses. If you were not able to attend the Kickoff, please visit the Web site to learn more about this initiative and to be a part of the process. Please turn to page 2 of this newsletter to learn more about the meetings and the discussions being generated.

The **ConnectingALABAMA** team has been conducting Planning Meetings, and will continue to have these meetings either in person or via conference call or webinar. We encourage everyone to join us! Below is the current schedule for in-person Planning Meetings. Notes from each meeting will be available to the public. Participants will receive these via e-mail or snail mail. Feel free to request a copy, and if you need the email address of your Regional Coordinator, please see page 6. We are excited about working with you to bring broadband access and awareness to your communities!

Regional Coordinator	First Round of Planning Meetings	Day / Date	Address
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 1 Planning Meeting — HELD Northwest-Shoals Community College	Thurs - 11/04/10	Please contact coordinator for Meeting Notes
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 7 Planning Meeting — HELD Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce	Mon - 11/15/10	Please contact coordinator for Meeting Notes
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 5 Planning Meeting — HELD Pike County Center for Econ. Development	Tues - 11/16/10	Please contact coordinator for Meeting Notes
Horace Lamar 334-229-8492	Region 9 Planning Meeting — HELD Montgomery Small Business Incubator	Wed - 11/10/10	Please contact coordinator for Meeting Notes
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 6 Planning Meeting Thomasville Civic Center	Tues - 12/01/10 10:00 AM	559 West Front St. N. Thomasville
Horace Lamar 334-229-8492	Region 11 Planning Meeting Turner-Surles Resource Center	Thurs - 12/02/10 10:00 AM	702 Sycamore Street NW Decatur
Josh Phillips 334-353-3375	Region 2 Planning Meeting WARC Meeting Facility	Thurs - 12/13/10 10:00 AM	4200 Hwy 69 N, Ste 1 Northport
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 4 Planning Meeting* Cheaha State Park Lodge	Tues - 12/14/10 1:00 PM	2141 Bunker Loop Delta
Jennifer Felder 334-353-3374	Region 12 Planning Meeting TARCOG Meeting Facility	Wed - 12/15/10 10:00 AM	5075 Research Dr NW Huntsville
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 3 Planning Meeting* TBA in Walker County	Jan 2011 TBA	TBA
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 3 Planning Meeting RPCGB Meeting Facility	Jan 2011 TBA	TBA
Chelese Beck 334-353-3376	Region 8 Planning Meeting TBA	Jan 2011 TBA	TBA
Horace Lamar 334-229-8492	Region 10 Planning Meeting TBA	Jan 2011 TBA	TBA

** An Interpreter for the hearing impaired will be at the meeting*

Meetings will generally last about 2 hours depending upon the dialog and topics under discussion. Dates/locations subject to change. Please contact the Regional Coordinator if you do not know if you are on the email list for invitations. Also, if you are not able to attend a meeting, your Regional Coordinator will be glad to send a copy of the meeting notes. ... Just Ask!

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PLAN FOR BROADBAND

ConnectingALABAMA is listening! At the Kickoffs and the Planning Meetings held so far, we have had strong attendance and great talking points from attendees. We encourage people to speak out and participate so that we can work together to bring Broadband Access and Awareness to your communities!

Regional Coordinators for all twelve regions report that the counties were well represented as were the various sectors of the community including Economic Development, Education, Energy, Healthcare, and Public Safety. Elected officials also had a strong presence in the majority of the meetings, as they understand the need for broadband in order bring forth better education and a stronger workforce, among other priorities.

The basic format of each meeting began with Executive Director Jessica Dent providing a brief history of the Alabama Broadband Initiative, introducing the team and recognizing elected officials and the Regional Councils of Government representative(s), who are partnered with **ConnectingALABAMA**. Then **Statewide Coordinator Nichole D'Andrea** gave a breakdown of the mapping and planning portions of the initiative.

At that point, the Regional Coordinator demonstrated the Broadband Awareness Tool and showcased the interactive broadband coverage map. Attendees provided contact information and feedback to the **ConnectingALABAMA** staff. The next step is to begin a series of Planning Meetings, some of which have not yet been set. Please watch for the upcoming dates so you can attend! Those already scheduled can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

"I wouldn't buy a house if I couldn't get broadband."

"Fiber is being put all over Iraq, we should be able to put fiber in Northwest, AL"

"There's broadband less than a mile up the road in either direction but I don't have it."

Comments such as these are typical from all over the state, but priorities regarding broadband or the type of deployment might vary in nature. Therefore, we will continue moving forward under this Initiative to reach the goals set in the Regions during the Planning Meetings being set.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS WEIGH-IN ON KICKOFFS



Region 10 Kickoff (Opelika) – was well attended, especially by the education community. Both Lee and Russell counties were represented. **Region 11 Kickoff** (Decatur) – Commendations go out to Mr. Neal Morrison, Executive Director of North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments and his staff, especially Ms Cherri Blankenship, Administrative Assistant, for their assistance in the planning and execution of the meeting and for their commitment to this effort. Education, health care, public safety, governmental agencies, community leaders, service providers and members of the general public were represented. ~ *Horace Lamar*

Region 5 Kickoff (Troy) – Attendees from many different sectors were on hand, including several elected officials and representatives from Internet Service Providers and the South Central Alabama Development Commission. Family organizations and small business owners were also in attendance. Many thanks to Marsha Gaylard and the Pike County Center for Economic Development for hosting. **Region 7 Kickoff** (Dothan) – Representatives from Internet Service Providers and the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission were on hand, joining active citizens and several officials from local and county governments. Special thanks to Tom Solomon, Executive Director of SEARPDC and Sarah Hesters, IT Administrator for SEARPDC, for all their efforts and assistance. **Region 2 Kickoff** (Tuscaloosa) – Elected officials and active citizens were in attendance, along with County Extension Agents and a representative from the West Alabama Regional Commission. Special thanks to Cory Johnson and the WARC for all their assistance. ~ *Josh Phillips*

Region 6 Kickoff (Thomasville) – Good attendance with representatives from Economic Development, Education, Energy, Healthcare, and Public Safety. We appreciate Mayor Day and Mr. Wallace of ATRC for their support in this event. **Region 4 Kickoff** (Delta) – Numerous participants attended from across the region. We expect higher attendance at the Planning Meetings as it was Election Day. To those who attended and braved the weather, thank you for making this event such a success. A special thank you to Mayor Berry and Donna Fathke of EARPDC for their assistance, along with presenters Janine Moses of JKM Consulting, Inc., and Jerry Shearin of Appalachian Valley Fiber. **Region 12 Kickoff** (Guntersville) – Participants from the business community and municipalities throughout the region, along with individuals, came out in strong support of

Continued on page 3

FEATURED BROADBAND GRANT AWARDS ... continued on page 4

AUBURN UNIVERSITY (EDIC) GRANT

Equipment and Training for Rural Alabama Public Computer Centers

Total Award: \$4,636,354

Auburn University, in partnership with the Tuskegee Institute and the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), proposes to expand and enhance public computer centers in 94 rural libraries and 21 public schools in Alabama as part of a strategy to address unmet user demand for computer resources. In a recent study conducted by the University, Alabama libraries reported that more than 60 percent of their patrons were economically vulnerable. This project pro-

poses to improve service for these populations by providing access to broadband-enabled computers that would allow users to search for jobs online, prepare resumes, use career development materials, and apply for employment, training, or related assistance.

Auburn plans to offer over 1,000 online courses for users seeking educational opportunities, along with distance learning and telemedicine applications. Auburn's Harrison School of

Pharmacy plans to test the feasibility of using video conferencing to facilitate transactions between rural residents and pharmacists. Further integrating the schools with their surrounding communities, student interns from Auburn and Tuskegee will work with library staff to maintain the computer centers and equipment.

Auburn plans to offer over 1,000 online courses for users.

FACT SHEET: http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/grantees/auburn_u.pdf

Other BTOP Grant Awards will be featured in upcoming newsletters! *Provided by* www.BroadbandUSA.gov

Continued on page 4

Regional Coordinators Weigh-in on Kickoffs ... Continued from page 2

this initiative. The help and support of D. C. Schafer of TARCOG and Melissa Kunkle with Digital Inclusion Initiative of TARCOG was greatly appreciated. ~ Jennifer Felder

Region 1 Kickoff (Phil Campbell) – Good participation from residents, business communities and public service agents. The meeting was followed by active discussions with attendees regarding broadband needs. Special thanks to Keith Jones and Nathan Willingham of NACOLG for their help in facilitation. **Region 3 Kickoff** (Graysville) – Engaged crowd of residents and elected officials concerned about expansion of broadband in their region. Special thanks to the City of Graysville, including Kathy Dumas, City Clerk, and Mayor Brewer. **Region 8 Kickoffs** – two Kickoffs were held due to a project by Trillion and A2D, which encompasses Escambia County (see previous newsletter or email me for more information). The morning meeting in Bay Minette had slight attendance but excellent conversations about the needs of the rural residents were forthcoming. We appreciate Faulkner State University's assistance in securing the meeting venue. The afternoon meeting in Brewton was well attended by the public, elected officials and the business community. Dr. Watkins was gracious in hosting the meeting. Special speaker was Tony Shackelford of A2D. ~ Chelese Beck



Diagram at right is the model for the SCABC (Trillion / A2D) project to include the following eight counties: Lowndes, Dallas, Wilcox, Conecuh, Escambia, Butler, Crenshaw and Macon. For more information on this project, please contact your Regional Coordinator (see page 6 for contacts)

FEATURED BROADBAND GRANT AWARD ... continued from page 3

JKM CONSULTING, INC.

Project BEAR (Broadband for East Alabama Region)

Total Award: \$6,269,197

In the rural, economically distressed east-central Alabama region that includes Calhoun, Talladega, Clay, and Randolph Counties, many valuable community organizations rely on slower, copper-based service for their Internet access, and some have no broadband service at all. JKM Consulting's Project BEAR proposes to deploy a 176-mile fiber network that includes 88 miles of new fiber to provide high-speed, affordable broadband services and directly connect more than 40 community anchor insti-

tutions in the four-county region. The project also plans to deploy six wireless access points to facilitate last-mile consumer service in isolated rural areas like Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, and the Talladega National Forest. The project intends to bring fiber to local Public Safety Access Points and other emergency agencies, and strengthen health-care delivery by connecting rural hospitals such as Clay County and Wedowee Hospital to urban hospitals, enabling telemedicine services such as participation in the

Alabama Pediatric Network. The project also expects to enhance local educational opportunities by connecting six community centers, increasing the quality of local after-school and homework programs.

FACT SHEET: http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/grantees/jkm_project_bear.pdf

See Project Coverage Map on page 5, opposite.

This project proposes to: Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 52,800 households and 3,700 businesses ...

HOW CAN I OR MY COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

- Explore www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/default.aspx to become familiar with Alabama's Broadband Initiative
- Watch the videos* online specifically targeted to important sectors of your community and provide vital feedback: www.connectingalabama.gov/videos
- Map locations and provide feedback with data supplied by service providers: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/maps.aspx
- Become informed about Broadband and how it can become available and be beneficial to businesses and residents: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/docs/faq.pdf
- Keep us informed if only dial-up access is available: www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/noaccess.aspx
- Attend the Planning Meetings currently being scheduled in your Region!
- Forward this information to colleagues, family and friends so they can also become involved!

* Please contact your Regional Coordinator for a link or CD of the videos designed for those with dial-up service.

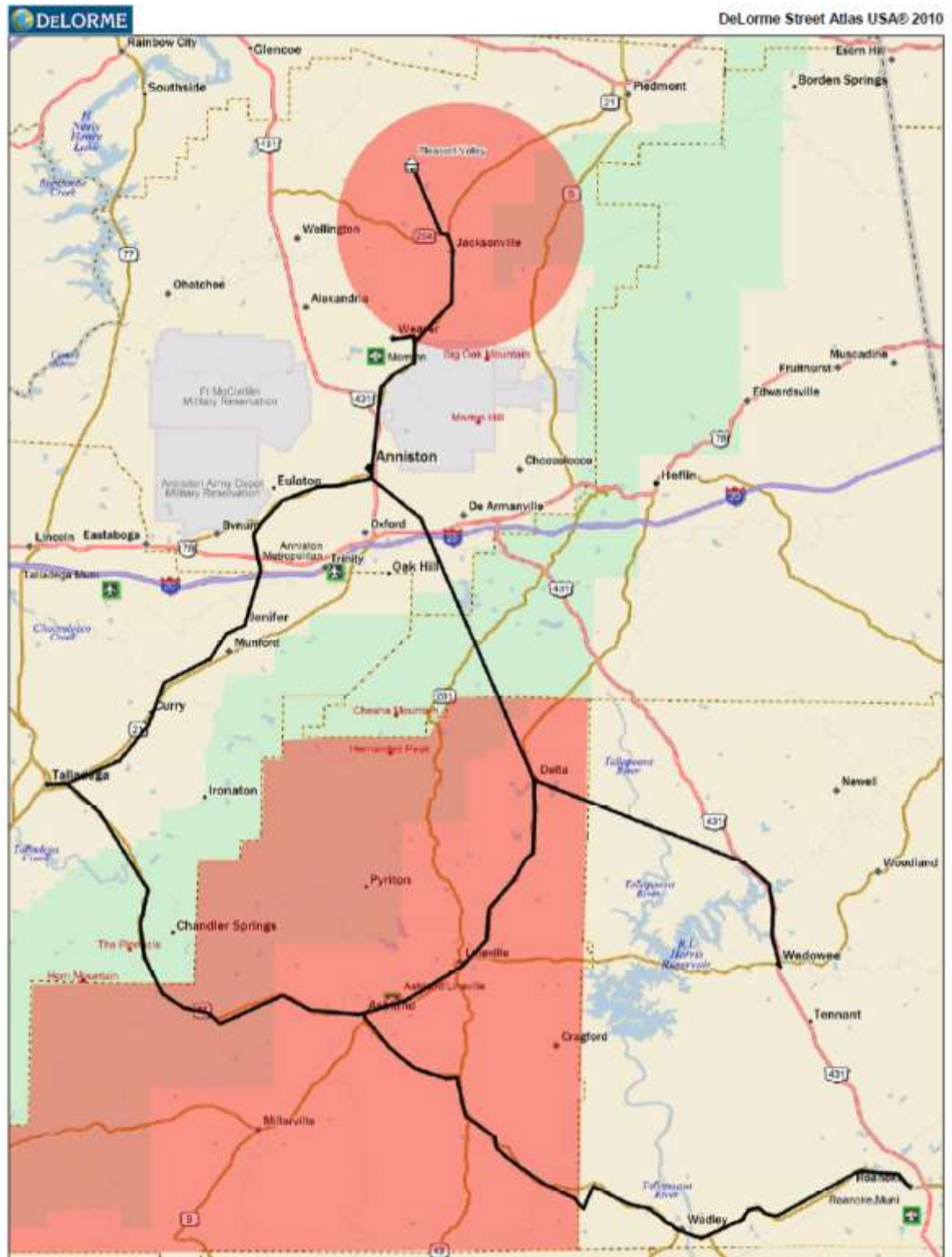


KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ConnectingALABAMA

Jessica Dent	Jessica.Dent@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-5682	Executive Director
Nichole D'Andrea	ndandrea@linkamericaalliance.gov	251-363-3844	Statewide Coordinator
Horace Lamar	hblamar@linkamericaalliance.com		
Chelese Beck:	Chelese.Beck@adeca.alabama.gov	334-229-8492	Regions 9, 10, 11
Jennifer Felder	Jennifer.Felder@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-3376	Regions 1, 3, 8
Josh Phillips:	Josh.Phillips@adeca.alabama.gov	334-353-3374	Regions 4, 6, 12



JKM CONSULTING, INC. PROJECT DIAGRAM



Pink Shaded Areas:
Wireless broadband
coverage areas
(WiMax)

Black Line: Fiber
Optic Cable

Data use subject to license.
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www.delorme.com

Scale 1 : 400,000
1" = 6.31 mi Data Zoom 9-0

BROADBAND GRANTS THROUGH ARRA

STATE BROADBAND DATA & DEVELOPMENT	Grantee	Jobs		Federal Awards	Miles		Served	
		Direct	Indirect		Wired	Wireless	Home	Businesses
	Alabama Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs			\$4,874,142	Original Award: \$1,896,323; Supplemental Funding: \$2,977,819. Includes broadband planning and data collection activity.			
	TOTALS			\$4,874,142				

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTER	Grantee	Jobs		Federal Awards	Notes
		Direct	Indirect		
	Deaf Action Center of Louisiana			\$1,380,513	81 new video-conf stations / 100 community partner sites
	Boat People SOS, Inc.			\$461,539	3 new centers / 57 new workstations / train 250 residents
	Auburn University	349		\$4,636,354	1,000 new workstations / expand-enhance centers in 94 rural libraries & 21 public schools / offer 1,000 online modules
	TOTALS	349		\$6,478,406	

SUSTAINABLE ADOPTION	Grantee	Jobs		Federal Awards	Notes
		Direct	Indirect		
	One Economy Corporation	40		\$26,519,482	\$458,220 in AL – 1 computer center (Bham)
	Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.			\$14,968,657	60 staff in SD center to service 16,000 new broadband subscribers
	Alabama Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs	3		\$1,181,348	Train 11,500 residents, partner w/6 community colleges, develop modules for AL Institute of Deaf & Blind ESL programs
	TOTALS	40		\$44,689,487	

INFRASTRUCTURE	Grantee	Jobs		Federal Awards	Miles		Served		
		Direct	Indirect		Wired	Other	Home	Anchors	Businesses
	Univ. Corp. for Advanced Internet Development			\$62,540,162	Backbone for 121,000 anchors / advance 6,183 public safety points				
	Appalachian Valley Fiber Network	300		\$21,286,914	182	(lease) 287	144,000	185	8,300
	Troy Cablevision, Inc.	145	300-400	\$26,068,284	130	(lateral) 400	53,000	140	3,600
	Trillion Communications, Inc.		1,050	\$59,258,545	2,200		72,000	400	3,000
	JKM Consulting, Inc.			\$6,269,197	176		52,800	44	3,700
	TOTALS	445	1,350+	\$175,423,102	2,688	687	321,800	769	18,600

USDA BIP	Applicant	Project		Jobs		Federal Award		Description
		Type	Round	Direct	Indirect	Loan	Grant	
	Butler Telephone Company, Inc.	Last	1	4		\$0	\$3,892,920	unserved/underserved rural areas w/in territory
	National Telephone of Alabama Inc	Last	2	4		\$421,578	\$1,264,739	1200 homes/230 businesses (Colbert County - 3 comm)
	North Alabama Electric Cooperative	Last	2	5		\$0	\$19,100,909	unserved/underserved rural areas in Northern AL
	Peoples Telephone Company, Inc	Last	2	109		\$0	\$4,163,589	unserved/underserved rural areas w/in territory
	Utopian Wireless Corporation (Ashford)	Last	2	9	40	\$396,525	\$1,189,575	Portable/mobile access to rural areas near Ashford
	Utopian Wireless Corporation (Shoals)	Last	2	17	40	\$569,679	\$1,709,039	Portable/mobile access to rural areas near Shoals
	TOTALS					\$1,387,782	\$31,320,771	

EXTERNAL HIGH-TECH ARTICLES

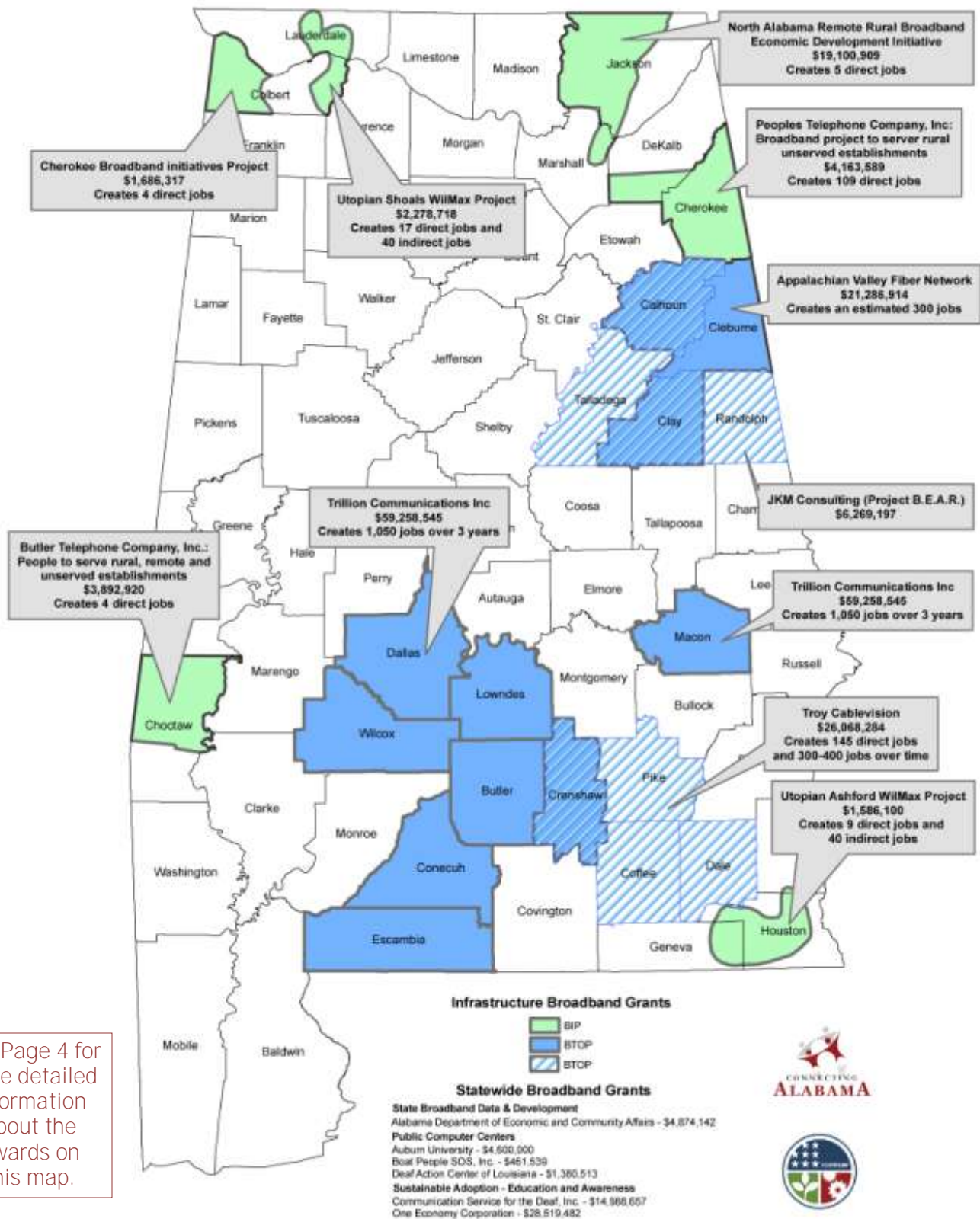
Broadband through Sewer System: <http://www.governing.com/topics/technology/Quincy-Running-Fiber-Through-the-Sewers.html>

AT&T Launches Health Care Business: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27083_3-20021750-247.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

Smart Cameras Aim to Stop Crimes Before They Occur: <http://www.govtech.com/featured/Smart-Cameras-Aim-to-Stop-Crimes-Before-They-Occur.html>

Google Ultra-High Speed Broadband Closer to Reality: <http://www.govtech.com/wireless/Google-Ultra-High-Speed-Broadband-Closer-to-Reality.html>

Broadband Grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



Find us on the Web!



CONNECTINGALABAMA.GOV

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bringing Alabama up to speed!

Get Involved!

We need YOUR feedback!

This success of this initiative is directly influenced by consumers utilizing the tools provided through **ConnectingALABAMA!**

Please visit the Web site and view the [VIDEOS](#) to learn more about how broadband access directly affects your community.

Then provide [FEEDBACK](#) so we can collect the necessary data to bring Alabama *Up to Speed!*



Click an icon to go directly to the *ConnectingALABAMA* Web site and utilize these tools.



CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR UPDATED SERVICE PROVIDER MAPS ... COMING IN DECEMBER!